

NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ

September 14, 2010

Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee Seeks Public Input on Local Drinking Water

The Raisin-South Nation Drinking Water Source Protection Committee (SPC) released two Draft Assessment Reports on Eastern Ontario municipal drinking water this week. These reports are on the Raisin Region and South Nation watershed regions respectively and are now available for viewing by the public. Comments are being invited by the Committee.

The studies have been coordinated and administered by a group of local Source Protection Committee (SPC) members who were appointed by the province in 2007. These draft studies are a culmination of over two years of intense technical study and research prompted by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment Clean Water Act (2006) in response to recommendations made after the Walkerton tragedy.

Coordinated by the Raisin-South Nation SPC, under the leadership of chair Claude Cousineau, the document contains current data and input from scientists, engineers, landowners, local conservation authorities, municipalities, as well as the general public. The purpose of the report is to recognize areas where drinking water might become contaminated or become depleted. It also prioritizes issues and threats within these particular areas so that a Source Protection Plan can be developed for the region.

Findings from the Draft Assessment Report will be presented in a series of six public meetings. The public is invited to come out and ask questions and dialogue with Source Protection Committee members and Conservation Authority staff at sessions in Lancaster, Alexandria, Embrun, Alfred, Chesterville and Spencerville. *(please find dates, times and locations attached).*

Copies of the Draft Assessment Report can also be viewed through local municipal offices as well as the Raisin-South Nation Conservation Authority (Cornwall) and South Nation Conservation (Finch). The report is also available on line at www.yourdrinkingwater.ca. On the website you will also find details on public meetings and the commenting process. The deadline for submitting written comments is Friday, October 15th, 2010. Comments will be carefully considered before the final draft of the report is posted for review in November.

For more information contact:

Karen Cooper

Communications Specialist

kcooper@rrca.on.ca or call 1-866-938-3611 (ext. 247)